

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: MORE BARRE REMARKS ON CONCORDE

REF: PARIS 5417

1. IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE AMERICAN CLBB OF PARIS ON MARCH 1, PRIME MINISTER BARRE ECHOED THE REMARKS HE HAD MADE EARLIER ON CONCORDE BEFORE THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (REFTEL), SUGGESTING THAT A US DECISION GOING AGAINST CONCORDE WOULD SMACK OF PROTECTIONISM. REFERENCE TO CONCORDE IN THE SPEECH CAME IMMEDIATELY AFTER BARRE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND HE ADDED THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE "TO COMBAT ANY RETURN TO PROTECTIONISM."

2. THE AFP REPORT OF THE CONCORDE PORTION OF BARRE'S SPEECH THEN READS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT "WE WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THAT AN ADVANCED REALIZATION OF EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY COULD NOT HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO THE

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MARKET ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC AS EUROPE RESRVES FOR AMERICAN EQUIPMENT," THE PRIME MINISTER SAID APROPOS OF CONCORDE. "I HAVE SAID, AND I CONFIRM, THAT IF CONCORDE WERE REFUSED LANDING RIGHTS AT NEW YORK EUROPEAN OPINION WOULD VIEW THIS AS A BREACH OF THE RULES OF LOYAL INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, WHICH WOULD BE ALL THE LESS COMPREHENSIBLE IN EUROPE'S EYES

COMING FROM A COUNTRY WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE DEFENDER OF THAT PRINCIPLE. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE AFFECTED AS A RESULT. " END TEXT.

3. FRANCE-SOIR FEATURED THE STORY THE NEXT AFTERNOON WITH BANNER FRONT PAGE HEADLING: "CONCORDE: BARRE THREATENS THE U.S."

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE VARIOUS MINISTERIAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOF TO BEGIN CONSIDERING WAYS TO GIVE MUSCLE TO BARRE'S THREAT OF A CHILL IN US-FRANCE RELATIONS, BUT WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE A FEW TROUBLING SIGNS. DURING A VISIT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON MARCH 4, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR WAS TOLD THAT THE CURRENT GOF EXPERT ON STRATOSPHERIC OZONE MONITORING MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THEIR JUNE MEETING IF CONCORDE WAS BANNED FROM NEW YORK. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION ON THE SAME DAY, DE LA NAZELLE, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS AT THE QUAI, WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO WARN THE SCIENCE COUNSELOR THAT AN ADVERSE DECISION ON CONCORDE WOULD CAST A DECIDED PALL OVER FRANCO-AMERICAN COOPERATION ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC MATTERS.

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Message Attributes

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